



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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## **Pesticide class in Olympia to assist Spanish-speaking workers obtain license**

OLYMPIA – A two-day class designed to prepare Spanish-speaking workers for an exam required to be a licensed commercial pesticide applicator, operator or private applicator will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 5 and 6, in Rooms 175 A & B of the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St. SE in Olympia. With a focus on how to apply pesticides in a safe and environmentally sound manner, the class is offered by the state Department of Agriculture in cooperation with Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension.

Individuals who complete the training and want to become licensed can take the exam Friday, Sept. 7 that will provide them with a pesticide license, according to Don Tapio, WSU area extension agent. Tapio urged attendees to read and study the Spanish version of the training manual *Private Applicator Pesticide Education Manual* prior to the class as an aid to pass the exam.

"There are no questions on the test that are not covered in the manual," Tapio said. The manual can be purchased for \$9 plus shipping and tax by calling WSU's bulletin office at (800) 723-1763. Ask for manual MISC 0126S.

The classes will be led by Jorge Lobos, a bilingual agricultural chemical specialist from the Department of Agriculture's Yakima office.

"Those who take the class should be able to successfully complete the exam that will provide them with a pesticide license," said Paul Figueroa, Compliance Program pesticide specialist, Olympia. Figueroa noted the class will benefit workers applying pesticides in the forestry, nursery, Christmas tree and other agricultural areas. Others benefiting would be applicators doing roadside maintenance and industrial area pesticide work.

There is no cost for the class but there is a \$50 fee to take the licensing exam. The fee is payable at the time of the exam. To register for the class, call the Department of Agriculture's license registration office at (877) 301-4555.

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